I cannot think, my lord, your son Is dead.

MOR. I am sorry, I should force you to believe
That, which I would to heaven I had not seen:
But these mine eyes saw him in bloody state,
Rend'ring faint quittance[7], wearied and outbreath'd,
To Harry Monmouth; whose swift wrath beat down
The never-daunted Percy to the earth,
From whence with life he never more sprung up.
In few, his death (whose spirit lent a fire
Even to the dullest peasant in his camp,)
Being bruited once, took fire and heat away
From the best temper'd courage in his troops:
For from his metal was his party steel'd;
Which once in him abated[8], all the rest
Turn'd on themselves, like dull and heavy lead.
And as the thing that's heavy in itself,
Upon enforcement, flies with greatest speed;
So did our men, heavy in Hotspur's loss,
Lend to this weight such lightness with their fear.
That arrows fled not swifter toward their aim,
Than did our soldiers, aiming at their safety,
Fly from the field: Then was that noble Worcester
Too soon ta'en prisoner: and that furious Scot,
The bloody Douglas, whose well-labouring sword
Had three times slain the appearance of the king,
'Gan vail his stomach[9], and did grace the shame

7— faint airiTTANCE,] *Quittance* is *return.* By "faint quittance" is meant a *faint return of blows.* So, in Kinff Henry V.:

"We shall forget the office of our hand,
** Sooner than *quittance* of desert and merit." STEEVENS.

8 For from his metal was his party steel'd:
Which once in him ABATED.] *Abated* is not here put for the general idea of *diminished,* nor for the notion *of blunted,* as applied to a single edge. *Abated* means *reduced to a lower*

temper, or, as the workmen call *it*, *let down*. JOHNSON.

9 Gap vail his stomach,] Began to fall his courage, to let his spirits sink under his fortune. JOHNSON.